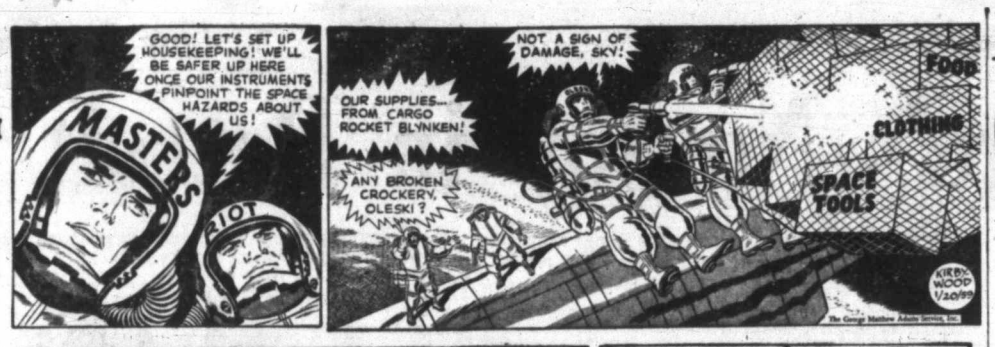
SKY MASTERS

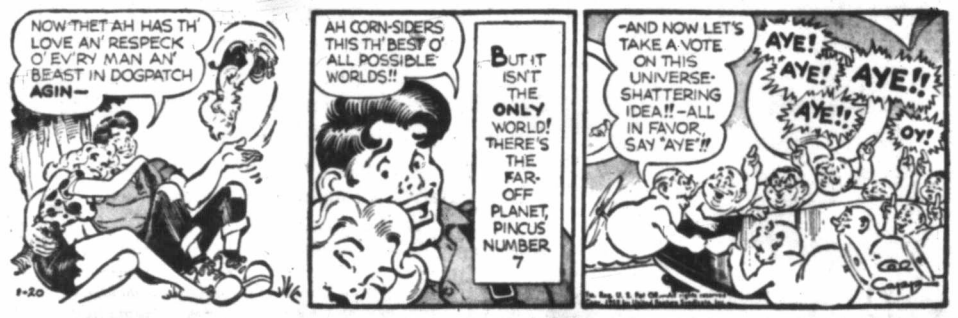


JUDGE PARKER

BLONDIE

BEN BOLT

LIL ABNER



REX MORGAN

ARCHIE

JULIE JONES

POGO

RIP KIRBY

Garden Notes

Glads Feel Spring Ahead

By M. V. CHESNUT, FRHS

One peculiarity of plant life I have never been able to figure out is how a gladiolus bulb in storage is capable of sensing the approach of spring. It can still be midwinter as far as us humans are concerned, dreary, wet and cold, but tucked away in the darkness, in their cool corner of the basement, the bulbs are beginning to stir and show signs of awakening life.

The first indication to appear is the development of tiny "warts" or nodules on the bottom of the bulb around the edge of the root scar. These are the new roots emerging, and at this time of the year, it is quite right and proper that these little white bumps should form. Any sign of top growth, though, is a pup from a different litter, and such premature sprouting can lead to real trouble later on.

* * *

The thing to look for in overhauling your bulbs is a pointed white shoot about the size and shape of a blanched almond, growing up out of the top of the bulb. If left unchecked, these shoots would become long and skinny, like the shoots from a sack of potatoes in a warm, dark basement, and as these are very fragile and brittle, most of them would break off during the spring planting operations.

With nearly three months to go before the soil will be dry enough and warm enough to plant out the bulbs, drastic action must be taken to persuade these early risers that spring is not just around the corner, and they had better go back to sleep for a while longer. The only way to do this is to find a cooler place for their storage.

* * *

I find a thermometer is absolutely necessary for checking the temperature of the gladiolus store. It seems to be a human failing t. estimate temperatures much lower than they really are. For instance, one corner of my basement is uncomfortably chilly, and I would have taken my oath that the temperature was cool enough for the glad bulbs, around 45 degrees, but on checking it with a cheap thermometer it turned out to be a good 55 degrees, and much too warm for good storage of gladiolus.

While going over the bulbs, keep a careful eye cocked for any specimens infected with mould or brown rot, and any which don't appear in normal health should be removed and burned. Like a bad apple in a barrel, each one of these can infect its neighbors and such disease can spread like wildfire through the whole store.

* * *

You'll probably find some bulbs sporting shiny brown beauty spots here and there over their surface. This is gladiolus scab, a skin disease of glads, but not a very serious infection. It is a good idea, though, to cut these scabs out with the point of a pocket knife and dust the wounds with sulphur or rose dust.

Brown rot, however, is bad medicine, and any bulb which feels soft when squeezed should be suspected and stripped of its "apron" for a closer examination. Brown rot is a dry, cork-like formation extending from top to bottom through the centre of the bulb, and any affected corms should go at once to the incinerator.

It wouldn't hurt, when putting your bulbs back into cool storage, to give them all another squirt of garden dust—anything you happen to have left over from last summer's operations. Tomato dust, potato dust, Gardenall, Pomogreen — it doesn't matter, although I lean to those preparations containing Captan as one of its ingredients.

The Viewing World

By John Crosby

Monsters on Trial

I think—weighing my words as carefully as possible and after due consultation with the Restraint Department of this newspaper and even after sleeping on it for several days—that Divorce Hearing is the most disgusting program on television.

"The couples appearing are real people," intones the announcer at the outset of the show. They just seem like monsters. I watched a woman, who was allegedly real, spitting pure venom at her unfortunate husband for a half-hour one day.

People on this show appear unrehearsed and explain carefully when they started loathing one another, why they loathe one another, and how much. I just don't think this sort of information is particularly edifying, and the people certainly aren't.

In general, lawyers are fairly unappetizing speciments and courts, like bathrooms, are necessary, but they ought to be kept out of sight.

Passion runs so high on Divorce Hearing that Dr. Paul Popenoe, a marriage counselor, who is there ostensibly to give marital advice, sometimes spends most of his time simply calming the furious participants down to some semblance of coherence.

"Oh, for cryin' out loud, keep yacking," snarled one lady. "Big ninny!"

"You were born tired," snapped her husband.

"I'm a nervous wreck!" shrieked the wife. "I can't stand clutter. Why did you have to leave the lawnmower out?"

"Let me say a word," essayed Popenoe timidly. "Please, you must get hold of yourself." And so forth.

Then there's Day in Court, another of the same on a different network. It was on this one that a tearful dame sobbed that she looked up in the sky at an amusement park ride called the Sling Shot—"A guy fell out," she sobbed. "It was my husband." "Madame, compose yourself," snapped the judge. "Why didn't the man who was with him fall out?" asked the defendant's attorney. "I don't know! I don't know!" sobbed the widow—for she was indeed a widow.

"I object," interjected the widow's attorney. "I'm going to sustain your objection," said the judge and he had darned well better because it was as silly a question as I have ever heard on one of these shows. You hear a lot of silly ones and silly answers, too. But the public can't get enough of it.

Hollywood Today

By Sheilah Graham

Liberace, Mama Make Up

HOLLYWOOD (NANA) — **Liberace** has staged a reconciliation with his warring family. First he made up with brother **George**, then he presented **Mama Liberace** with a beautiful home in Palm Springs as a peace offering. So I guess there will be sweet music coming from the happy trio who are living in separate residences in the desert resort.

* * *

Yul Brynner and **Gina Lollobrigida**—King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba—along with **George Sanders** and **Marisa Pavan**, will live on a Mediterranean luxury cruiser for two weeks, while shooting their movie at Almeria, Spain, which has only a very tiny hotel.

* * *

Gower Champion took off for the big city yesterday to prepare the spectacular he will direct and star in with wife **Marge, Ginger Rogers, Louis Jourdan** and the comedy team, **Mike Nichols** and **Elaine May.**

* * *

Finnish ballerina-turned-star **Taina Elg** has enrolled in the dancing classes of the famed **Madame Nijinska.** "I want to dance again," explains Taina whose last picture, "Watusi", depicts the blonde beauty as a missionary in the African jungle.

* * *

Palm Springs was a busy place this week with **Peter Lawford** at **Frank Sinatra's** home . . . **Tony Curtis** and wife **Janet Leigh** guesting with the **Harold Mirisches**—he produced Tony's recent "Some Like It Hot."

* * *

Also there, **Barbara Rush** with **Warren Cowan,** whom she is expected to marry; **Joan Collins** at the **Sammy Cahns,** and **Natalie Wood** and **Bob Wagner** at the Recquet Club.

* * *

More problems for **Roberto Rossellini:** The state prosecutor in Rome is considering a bigamy charge against him, on the grounds that **Ingrid Bergman** was still the wife of **Dr. Peter Lindstrom** when they wed by proxy in Mexico. Ingrid has no plans to return to Italy.

Winning Contract

Vul: Both

NORTH
♠ —
♡ J 9 6 5
◇ A K 10 8 6 4
♣ A J 7

WEST
♠ A Q J 10 7 6 2
♡ 10 4 2
◇ J 5
♣ 6

EAST
♠ 9 4
♡ K 8 7 3
◇ Q 9 3 2
♣ 8 3 2

SOUTH (D)
♠ K 8 5 3
♡ A Q
◇ 7
♣ K Q 10 9 5 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	2 ♠	3 ◇	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
5 ♡	Pass	6 ♣	All Pass

Opening lead: ♡ 2

One of the most important principles in smooth slam bidding involves timing. Bidding space must be conserved in order to exchange information at the lowest possible level. Cue-bids—that is, over-calling in opponents' suit—should be delayed until a trump suit has been established, either directly or by inference. Thus, North shows his diamond suit and gives partner a chance to rebid clubs before making a slam try by cue-bidding spades.

At trick one, dummy and East played low, South winning the heart queen. A low diamond was led to North's ace, and a small diamond ruffed. West dropping the jack. Now followed two rounds of trumps, ending on the board. The diamond king was cashed, South throwing a spade, and a fourth diamond ruffed. Dummy was re-enerted with a trump, and South sluffed two more spades on the diamonds, losing just one spade trick.

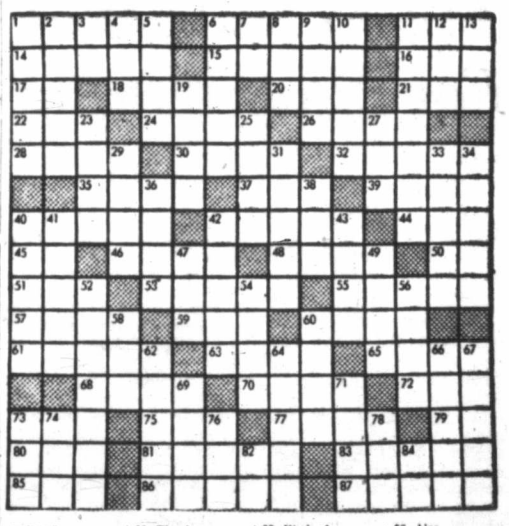
A better line of play might have been to cash the two top diamonds and the two hearts, and cross ruff the entire hand, making seven-odd. Only if West were able to ruff the second diamond and return a trump, could the hand have been beaten.

Released by The Associated Newspapers

COLORFUL BIRD

Goshawks which nest in Northwest Canada are blue-grey in color with a finely-barred pattern of the breast.

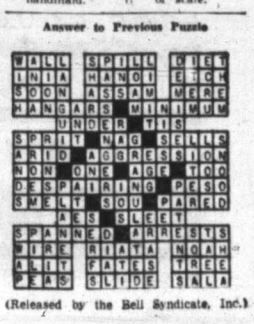
The Daily Cross-Word Puzzle . . .



ACROSS
1. Assigned task.
6. ____ cross.
11. Pigpen.
14. Long-legged bird.
15. Lasso.
16. College in Iowa.
17. Babylonian deity.
18. Quote.
20. Henpeck.
21. Native of Mindanao.
22. Pigpen.
24. Periods.
26. Microbe.
28. Rough shelter.
30. Fondles.
32. Lethargic sleep.
35. River islands.
37. City of Paraguay.
39. Adam ____, novel by George Eliot.
40. Stringed instruments.
42. Snarl.
44. Female ruff.
45. Teutonic deity.
46. Girl's name.
48. Fish sauce.
50. Bone.
51. Turkish title.
53. Destroys.
55. Polish.
57. Dwarf.
59. River of Norway.
60. Asterisk.
61. Surgical thread.
63. Location.
65. Kind of pastry.
68. Plunder.
70. Let it stand.
72. Title of respect.
73. Farewell.
75. Gratuity.
77. Gem.
79. Faroe Islands' windstorm.
80. Atmosphere.
81. Rub out.
83. Fencing position.
85. Combining form: feast day.
86. Withers.
87. Long lock of hair.

DOWN
1. Game.
2. Tract of wasteland in Great Britain.
3. Correlative of either.
4. Fabulous bird.
5. Wife of Geraint.
6. Island in the Mediterranean.
7. Japanese measure.
8. Scotch for John.
9. Antlered animal.
10. Wise men.
11. Go hastily.
12. Small child.
13. Affirmative vote.
19. Summits.
23. Period of time.
25. Agitate.
27. Plunder.
29. Immerses.
31. Porticos.
33. Kind of theatre in ancient Greece.
34. Los Angeles ballplayer.
36. Former Russian ruler.
38. Boring tool.
40. Perceives through ear.
41. Debate.
42. Profits.
43. For fear that.
47. Regret.
49. Informal talk.
52. Deer's horns.
54. Short sleeps.
56. Cleopatra's handmaid.
58. Also.
60. Walk.
62. Observes.
64. American Indians.
66. Unruly outbreaks.
67. Woody plants.
69. To weary.
71. Nice discernment of purpose.
73. Old Dutch liquid measure.
74. By way of.
76. Golf score.
78. Malay gibbon.
82. A direction.
84. Syllable of scale.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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